

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are pending in the application. Claims 7 and 8 have been newly added herewith.

Examiner Interview

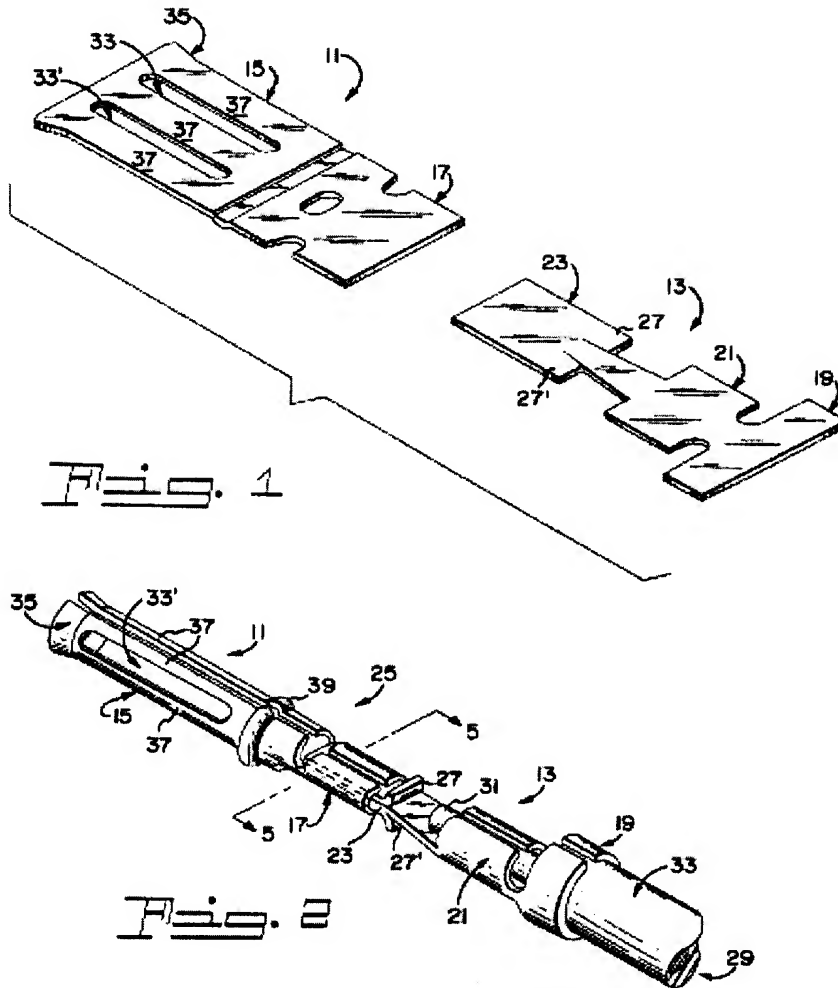
Applicant's representative conducted an interview with the Examiner on May 29, 2007 and thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended at that time. During the interview, Applicant's representative argued for the allowability of claim 1. At least those arguments discussed during the interview are presented below.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6

Particularly, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gipe (U.S. Patent No. 4,031,614) in view of Swengel, Sr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,656,092) and the APA. Applicant respectfully traverses.

First, Gipe fails to teach inserting an electric wire into the insertion hole of a connecting member and compressing the connecting member as set forth in claim 1, as previously argued in the Amendment of June 14, 2006. Gipe illustrates two different states in Figs. 1 and 2 (reproduced below), but does not teach the particulars regarding how the device is assembled from the state of Fig. 1 to Fig. 2. Particularly, Gipe is unclear as to the movement of the wire 29 into the connecting member 13 and does not teach inserting an electric wire into the insertion hole of a connecting member and compressing the connecting member as claimed. For instance, the alleged connecting member element 13 may be simply wrapped around the wire 29.



Furthermore, Gipe would not have been modified with Swengel to include a continuous connecting member, as suggested by the Examiner. The Swengel sleeve 24 is preformed and the wire is then inserted. In contrast, Gipe is directed specifically to using a deformable member 13. There is no indication that the Swengel sleeve 24 would be desirable when using the deformable member 13 of Gipe at least because the deformable member 13 is not preformed. Also, the non-continuous shape of deformable member 13 allows it to appropriately wrap around the electric

wire 29 or to accommodate different and larger sizes. For example, a wire 29 with a larger diameter than the inside diameter of the deformable member 13 can be accommodated because of the gap between ends of the deformable member. If Gipe were modified to include a continuous shape, different sizes could not be accommodated and it would defeat this function of Gipe. Finally, there is no indication that the Swengel sleeve 24 could serve the function of the deformable member 13 which is designed to begin flat and then be shaped, as shown in Gipe Fig. 2.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over the combination of Gipe, Swengel and the APA. Claims 3, 4 and 6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 2

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gipe in view of Swengel, the APA and further in view of Hsieh. Claim 2 depends from claim 1. The Examiner cites Hsieh only as teaching shaping by rotary swagging. Hsieh would not correct the deficiencies of the combination of Gipe, Swengel and the APA even if it were proper to modify the combination with Hsieh as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 2 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 7 and 8. Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Attorney Docket No.: Q76879
Application No.: 10/634,847

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Stephen R. Valancius
Registration No. 57,574

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